

Message Text

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FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT SINGAPORE 0358 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK KUALA
LUMPUR JAKARTA MANILA USUN GENEVA JAN 24.

QUOTE SINGAPORE 0358

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, SN, US

SUBJECT: LOS-GOS EXPECTATIONS

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FEBRUARY LOS MEETING WITH MICHAEL CHEOK,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL SECTION, MFA, AND CHAO HICK TIN,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SENIOR STATE COUNSEL,
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS (CHAO WILL ATTEND MEETING). BOTH
OFFICERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN LOS AFFAIRS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

2. CHEOK AND CHAO ARE PESSIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT ON DEEP SEABED
MINING WILL BE REACHED AT FEBRUARY MEETING OR AT SEVENTH SESSION.
(COMMENT: THIS JUDGMENT IS BASED ON EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN ANY
CURRENT INFORMATION. CHEOK GETS VERY LITTLE REPORTING ON LOS
MATTERS FROM SINGAPORE EMBASSIES.) THEY ACCEPT AMBASSADOR
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RICHARDSON'S CINCINNATTI SPEECH AS VALID ANALYSIS OF CURRENT
SITUATION AND SPECIFICALLY AGREE THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE USE
IN CARRYING ON LOS CONFERENCE BEYOND SEVENTH SESSION IF NO
REAL PROGRESS IS MADE THERE. CHAO SAID THAT U.S. AND A
DOZEN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT COULD HANDLE DEEP SEABED TECHNOLOGY
OR THAT ARE LARGE, LAND-BASED MINERAL PRODUCERS WILL BE ONLY
WINNERS IF TALKS FAIL. REAL OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS IS HARD CORE

OF MISGUIDED G-77 REPRESENTATIVES WHO AUTOMATICALLY OPPOSE ANY U.S. PROPOSAL AND MANAGE TO BROWBEAT OTHER COUNTRIES INTO "G-77 SOLIDARITY". HE BELIEVES THAT THESE REPS, ALMOST ENTIRELY UNINSTRUCTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS, ARE LARGEY IGNORANT OF THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SEABED MINING AND IN ANY CASE "VOTE WITH THEIR HEARTS, NOT THEIR HEADS."

3. CHAO SAID THAT LDCS MISSED THEIR BEST CHANCE IN NOT ACCEPTING U.S. TRUSTEESHIP PROPOSAL IN 1971, WHICH WAS WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD.

4. ON RELATED SUBJECT, EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT SOVIET VISIT TO S.E. ASIA ON LOS MATTERS. CHEOK SAID TWO SOVIET LOS OFFICERS WILL BE VISITING SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA (AND POSSIBLY OTHER COUNTRIES) PROBABLY SOME TIME IN MARCH (THEY ORIGINALLY HAD ASKED TO COME IN EARLY FEBRUARY DURING PERIOD OF LOS MEETING) 1 CHEOK SAID HE HAD NO IDEA OF REAL PURPOSE OF VISIT, SINCE "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT". ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN STRAITS QUESTION, CHEOK SAID" THAT HAS BEEN SETTLED." HE SUGGESTED TRIP WAS SIMPLY A JUNKET.
HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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